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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

VOL. XII, No. 25, July 2, 2012

**eRegions**

**EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

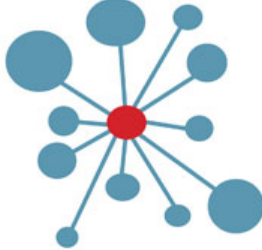
Colleagues,

So much has happened in D.C. this last week!

First, we hope everyone caught in the Western wildfires or the storms spanning Florida to Ohio are safe. If we can help connect regions needing assistance, please let us know.

Second, the Health Care Law survived a Supreme Court test – we will do our best to connect you with resources to manage new provisions.

Third, we will also work with you to understand and implement the new surface transportation authorization. We are



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**executive directors' conference**  
september 23-25, 2012  
boise, id

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## **PROGRAMUPDATE**

**NARC's Transportation Webinar:** NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2012 from 12:00-2:00pm ET. NARC and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will discuss their recently released report on transit in nonmetropolitan regions. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early and [HERE](#) for more information.

**NARC's Solar Energy Webinar:** NARC is hosting a webinar, Regional Collaborative Procurement for Solar PV, on regional collaborative procurement for Solar PV on July 12, 2012 from 3:00-4:00pm ET. The webinar, which will discuss how through collaborative procurement,

happy about the provisions we worked with you on in the bill, though understand that there could have been more. We are working on analyzing the bill and will have more information for you soon. Please check back on our website for updates.

Lastly, while it is not an Authorization that moves us into the future and fixes 30 years of underfunding, we can at least be proud that Congress defended the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and Regional Council provisions, and enacted other law in your favor. It is on all of us to make the next Authorization better and we will work with you to do so.

If you haven't yet – please visit our [new website](#). We have Farm Bill analysis, reports and other material available.

Best,  
Fred

### **NARCLEADERSHIP**

**President Dave Shafer,**  
Clerk/Treasurer,  
Town of Munster, IN  
**Chair Sean Dey,**  
Executive Directors

communities can reduce the up-front costs of solar installations by working together as a group to evaluate project sites, procure solar systems and negotiate contracts, thus yielding much lower transaction costs for each individual partner. Learn about the techniques used to establish a successful collaborative procurement process and how it can be replicated in your region. Click [HERE](#) to register. For questions about the webinar, please email Mia Colson at [Mia@NARC.org](mailto:Mia@NARC.org).

### **Nominations for National Geospatial Advisory Committee**

**Sought:** The Department of the Interior is seeking nominations for appointments to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC). The NGAC provides recommendations and advice to the federal government on national geospatial policy issues and the management of national geospatial programs and allows the Federal government to hear views and opinions that are representative of partners in the geospatial community. Nominations for appointment to the NGAC should be submitted electronically to [ngacnominations@fgdc.gov](mailto:ngacnominations@fgdc.gov) by July 19, 2012. Additional information about the nomination process is posted on the NGAC web page at [www.fgdc.gov/ngac](http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac).

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## **POLICYUPDATE**

*The House and Senate are out of session for the July 4th holiday.*

### **NARC Statement on Federal Transportation Authorization**

**Conference Report:** On Thursday, June 28th, NARC released a statement regarding the Federal Transportation Authorization Conference Report. Staff is working on analyzing the report and will be providing additional information as it becomes available. Click [HERE](#) to access a copy of the statement.

**Farm Bill Analysis Available:** Last week, NARC released a side-by-side comparison of the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012 ([S. 3240](#)) with the 2008 Farm Bill, with a focus on rural development. Click [HERE](#) for more information and [HERE](#) to access the side-by-side.

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## **REGIONS360**

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Executive Director, West  
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**Broward MPO to Release RFQ for Public Education and Engagement Campaign:** The RFQ is expected to be released in late September/early October. Click **HERE** for additional information.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge: Advanced Manufacturing**

*Application Deadline: July 9, 2012*

Several agencies from the Department of Commerce and Department of Labor have announced a multi-agency effort to fund advanced manufacturing activities that drive high potential industry clusters. The Advanced Manufacturing Jobs Accelerator allows applicants to submit a single multi-year project narrative to multiple agencies which will in turn fund various aspects of the project. Up to 12 awards are anticipated, with each award receiving funding from one or more participating agencies. Access the Federal Funding Opportunity **HERE** or click **HERE** for more resources and information.

### **Economic Development Administration's i6 Challenge**

*Deadline: July 20, 2012*

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, is holding the third round of the i6 Challenge. Teams must submit proposals to establish or expand Proof of Concept Centers: institutions like the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology that provide seed grants for innovators and entrepreneurs. Six winning teams will be awarded up to \$1 million each. Click **HERE** for more information and see Upcoming Events for related webinars.

### **Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Visioning Challenge**

*Deadline: July 23, 2012*

The EDA will select six cities, one from each of its regions, to award up to \$1 million to conduct their own regional two-phase competitions to encourage innovation in regional development. In the first phase experts in engineering, transportation, economic development or other fields will submit economic development proposals for the area. Those who submit the highest-rated proposals will receive a cash prize and then, in the second phase, go on to compete for a larger prize by creating a more

comprehensive development plan. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***NARC's Transportation Webinar***

**July 10, 2012, 12:00-2:00pm ET**

NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled; NARC and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will discuss their recently released report on transit in nonmetropolitan regions. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early and HERE for more information.

### ***NLC and FHWA Webinar on TIFIA***

**July 11, 2012, 1:30-3:30 pm ET**

The National League of Cities (NLC) and Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Innovative Program Delivery is pleased to host a webinar on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program. This webinar will help city, county and public transportation leader's gain an understanding of innovative financing techniques used to construct large infrastructure projects. This webinar will provide an executive overview of TIFIA Federal Credit Assistance program, whose objective is to leverage Federal transportation funding to attract private investment to the U.S. surface transportation sector. After successfully completing this webinar participants will understand the benefits of federal credit assistance and the intricacies of securing this funding to build needed infrastructure. There is no cost to participate in this webinar and it is open to everyone who is interested. You must register in advance, click [HERE](#), to reserve your connection for this webinar. For more information, contact Thay Bishop of the Innovative Program Delivery Office at 404-562-3695 or [thay.bishop@dot.gov](mailto:thay.bishop@dot.gov).

### ***NARC's Regional Collaborative Procurement for Solar PV Webinar***

**July 12, 2012, 3:00-4:00pm ET**

NARC is hosting a webinar on regional collaborative procurement. This webinar will discuss how through collaborative procurement, communities can reduce the up-front costs of solar installations by working together as a group to evaluate project sites, procure solar systems and negotiate contracts, thus yielding much lower transaction costs for each individual partner. Learn about the techniques used to establish a successful collaborative procurement process and how it can

be replicated in your region. Speakers include Tyler Espinoza, Project Manager, Optony Inc.; Blaine Collison, Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership; and Jeff King, Principal Environmental Planner, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Click [HERE](#) to register. For questions about the webinar, please email Mia Colson at [Mia@NARC.org](mailto:Mia@NARC.org).

***REMI Webinar: The New Mexico Renewable Portfolio Standard***  
**July 16, 2012, 2:00pm ET**

REMI, a NARC Corporate partner is proud to welcome [Dr. James Peach](#), Regents Professor at New Mexico State University (NMSU), to present a study on the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in New Mexico (conducted jointly with REMI economists Zilin Cui and Scott Nystrom). The majority of states have an RPS which requires a certain target of renewable power generation by utilities. New Mexico requires 20% of electricity to come from wind, solar, geo-thermal or bio-fuels sources by 2020. This analysis, using REMI PI+, simulates the influence of the economic costs and benefits from the policy to produce results such as job impacts, growth, real personal income and other major factors. Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register for this free webinar.

***Addressing Soft Costs and Barriers to Solar in Your Community***  
***Workshop***

**July 18, 2012, 8:30am-12:30pm EDT, Pittsburgh, PA**

This interactive workshop, presented by [the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership](#), will provide actionable information on overcoming local-level barriers to solar, addressing soft costs, and implementing a successful local solar program. Areas of focus will include: 1) revising zoning codes and ordinances to allow for solar; 2) streamlining permitting processes to facilitate solar installations; 3) financing solar projects; and 4) installing solar on municipal and other community facilities. Case study examples will highlight successful practices and lessons learned from communities that have undertaken solar projects in these focus areas. To register, [click HERE](#).

***13th National Tools of the Trade Conference***

**September 12 - 14, 2012, Big Sky, MT**

Join transportation professionals from around the country to network, share ideas, and learn about the latest developments and opportunities for transportation planning in small and medium sized communities. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

***2012 Ohio Conference on Freight***

**September 13-14, 2012, Sandusky, OH**

Save the Date! The Ohio Conference on Freight is a highly regarded forum featuring experts in all modes of freight transportation. It focuses on the development of freight-related economic opportunity within Ohio and its surrounding states and the wider Great Lakes region, including Canada. Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website; registration will open on June 27, 2012.

***2012 Executive Directors' Conference***

**September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID**

Save the Date! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and an agenda will be available in mid 2012.

***EcoSummit - Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services***

**September 20-October 5, 2012, Columbus, OH**

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is helping to host the 2012 EcoSummit, which brings together the world's preeminent leaders in ecological sciences. Registration information is now available. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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